

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NSA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

NIC-01 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-04 CU-04 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 RSR-01 /140 W

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R 231953Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4920

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

CINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJ: TENSIONS CONTINUE TO ABATE

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MVD 2077, 2111, 2195

1. THE PERIOD OF TENSION FOLLOWING THE CLOSING OF THE CONGRESS CONTINUES TO ABATE. THE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ABATEMENT BY RELEASING OVER THE JULY 20 WEEKEND, A NUMBER OF POLITICIANS WHO HAD BEEN HELD PRISONERS FOR VARIOUS LENGTHS OF TIME. THOSE RELEASED INCLUDED FOUR BLANCO CONGRESSMEN ARRESTED THE WEEK OF JULY 1; BLANCO SENATOR WALTER SANTORO, WHO WAS DETAINED JULY 10; FOUR COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED JULY 19 AND SEVERAL FORMER MONTEVIDEO COUNCILMEN WHO WERE DETAINED INITIALLY IN FEBRUARY. "FRENTE AMPLIO" LEADER GENERAL LIBER SEREGNI WAS NOT RELEASED BUT HIS FOLLOWERS ARE PURSUING A "HABEAS CORPUS" WRIT IN AN EFFORT TO SECURE HIS RELEASE.

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2. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, RELEASE OF THE BLANCOS HAD BEEN

EXPECTED BY THEIR FAMILIES. IN RETROSPECT, A COMMENT BY INTERIOR MINISTER BOLENTINI LAST WEEK MAY ALSO HAVE POINTED TO THEIR RELEASE. WHEN ASKED IF THE DETAINED POLITICIANS WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE COURTS, BOLENTINI REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE BECAUSE THEY HAD COMMITTED NO CRIMES BUT HAD BEEN DETAINED FOR SECURITY REASONS.

3. THERE WERE OTHER ENCOURAGING SIGNS OF NORMALIZATION DURING THE PAST WEEK. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS RETURNED TO CLASSES JULY 16 AND THE WEEK PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENT. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MONTEVIDEO PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO OPEN JULY 30, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY REOPENED JULY 23. THE LEFTIST "AHORA" AND THE COMMUNIST "EL POPULAR" BOTH REAPPEARED FOLLOWING THEIR TEMPORARY CLOSURES. ALSO, A SIZEABLE CROWD GATHERED ON JULY 23 TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF LONG-TIME BLANCO STALWART, LUIS ALBERTO DE HERRERA. CEREMONIES AT THE CEMETARY AND A DOWNTOWN CHURCH PASSED PEACEFULLY WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM AUTHORITIES.

4. TWO COMING EVENTS MAY TEST THE MOMENTARY TRANQUILLITY. THE NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION, A CONSERVATIVE HEARTILY DISLIKED BY LEFTIST STUDENTS, IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE A MAJOR ADDRESS ON JULY 23 AND COULD TRIGGER STUDENT REACTIONS. ALSO, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS OPENED DISCUSSIONS WITH LABOR LEADERS WITH AN EYE TO PROMPT ISSUANCE OF NEW LABOR REGULATIONS WHICH ARE NOT EXPECTED TO SIT WELL WITH MOST UNION LEADERS. ORTIZ

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